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Buttigieg has lead over Sanders with 86% of the precincts reporting. A3

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Health agency sees biggest jump in cases since start of epidemic. A11

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Legendary star of Hollywood's 'Golden Age' was 103. A12

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Turning to all rain with a high of 38. A2

Hartford Courant

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THE IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

TRUMP ACQUITTED

Connecticut's delegation has few regrets, arguing necessity of checks and balances

By Daniela Altimari and Eliza Fawcett

As the drama around impeachment drew to a close with the Senate's acquittal of President Donald J. Trump, members of Congress from Connecticut said the divisive and bruising battle was worth it, despite the outcome.

"It was really important, for history's sake, that Congress not stay silent," said Rep. Jim Himes, the second-ranking Democrat of the House Intelligence Committee. "The House of Representatives made a very powerful case against the president's behavior, so powerful that most senators aren't even contesting the facts."

In a pair of momentous votes nearly entirely along party lines, the Senate ac-

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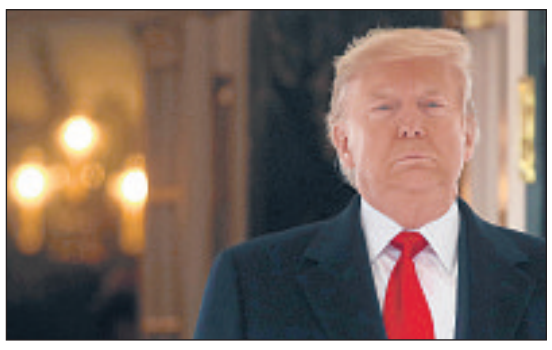

MARK WILSON/GETTY

President Donald Trump awaits a meeting at the White House in Washington on Wednesday.

▶ **Analysis:** Republicans fasten fate to President Donald Trump after falling into line at the trial. **A4**

GOP-led Senate jurors vote against both articles of impeachment to oust president

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal Wednesday in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in U.S. history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tumultuous 2020 race for the White House.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do "impartial justice" stood at their desks to state their votes for the roll call — "guilty" or "not guilty" — in a swift tally almost exclusively along party lines. Visitors, including the president's allies, watched from the crowded gallery.

Roberts read the declara-

*Turn to **Acquit, Page A4***

STATE OF THE STATE

MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Gov. Ned Lamont exits the dais after delivering his State of the Sate address Wednesday in the Connecticut House chambers.

Lamont flashes optimism

Governor proposes 'no more badmouthing' Connecticut in his annual address

Inside

▶ Finding a path to legal marijuana, debt-free community college and 10 more takeaways from Lamont's proposed budget. **B1**

▶ A capital improvement plan would put $55M toward XL Center. **B1**

By Amanda Blanco and Christopher Keating

HARTFORD — Gov. Ned Lamont struck an optimistic tone in his State of the State address Wednesday, saying Connecticut's perpetual fiscal crisis and continual budget deficits are largely in the rearview mirror and pledging to focus on economic growth in his second year as governor.

He touted a series of economic accomplishments as the state's chief fiscal cheerleader, and he then took direct aim at the state's many critics that include those within Connecticut's own borders.

"No more badmouthing the state of Connecticut," Lamont said, prompting the biggest applause of the day in a bipartisan show of support. "This is an amazing state. The rest of our country is looking at Connecticut in a new light, and so should you. Optimism is contagious. I don't have rose-colored glasses on. I know we have a way to go, but we are making significant progress on your behalf every day."

During a 42-minute speech that kicked off the 2020 legislative session and was interrupted by at least 15 standing ovations, Lamont cited positive statements by national media outlets and Wall Street analysts as the state is fighting to end decades of stagnant job growth and subsequent budget problems.

"Rating agencies and investors have upgraded their outlook for Connecticut for the first time in 18 years, from neutral to positive — saving the state and its taxpayers tens of millions in borrowing costs," Lamont said. "Economic growth picked up last year. That means businesses and young families are now giving Connecticut a second look. They're talking about Connecticut — and we're responding."

Democrats, in the major-

*Turn to **Address, Page A6***

'Madam Mayor' recalled at service

The friends of late Carrie Saxon Perry remember leader

By Rebecca Lurye

HARTFORD — Those who knew her best were sure "Madam Mayor" Carrie Saxon Perry would not have liked her memorial service Wednesday night — not its tributes and reflections, maybe not even the hundreds of hats mourners donned in honor of her signature style.

The late Hartford leader, the first black woman elected mayor of a major New England city, never wanted fuss or fanfare, her closest friends and colleagues said during the homecoming celebration. Hundreds of people filled the Artists Collective anyway, intent on marking Saxon Perry's death 15 months earlier at age 87, which went unreported and largely unnoticed until reports of her passing were confirmed in November.

Whatever Saxon Perry may have wanted, healing was what the community needed, said State Treasurer Shawn Wooden, who remained close with Saxon Perry since she gave him his first job with her 1991 reelection campaign. The community needs strength, too, Wooden said, "because the hefty weight of carrying her legacy forward is upon us."

"Tonight is not about losing a giant but recognizing the fact that a giant emerged from this community, lived in service to this

*Turn to **Service, Page A6***

Man admits to guilt

A year after a New York woman was found dead, stuffed inside a suitcase that was tossed in Greenwich, authorities announced that her ex-boyfriend pleaded guilty to charges Wednesday that he kidnapped and killed her. Javier Enrique Da Silva-Rojas, 25, admitted to the charge of kidnapping resulting in death for the slaying of Valerie Reyes during a hearing in White Plains, N.Y., police said. **Connecticut, Page B1**

TYLER SIZEMORE/AP

New lawyer for Troconis

Michelle Troconis, above, who is charged with conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the disappearance of Jennifer Farber Dulos, has a new lawyer — Hartford attorney Jon L. Schoenhorn, who said he expects to put on an aggressive defense. **Connecticut, Page B1**

New post

Laura Settlemyer, Hartford's blight remediation director, is leaving her city position after three years to lead the newly formed Hartford Land Bank, the very resource she helped develop to reclaim vacant, tax-delinquent and neglected properties. Starting this month, she'll serve as executive director of the nonprofit, the first such land bank in Connecticut created to return blighted properties to safe and decent condition. **Connecticut, Page B3**

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LOTTERY **A2**
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COMICS **D6-D7**

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